

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system in which a use contractor who has made a contract with a service providing company leases an information electric appliance rented out from said service providing company,

wherein said information electric appliance can send ~~the~~ data exhibiting ~~the~~ a work situation thereof to a rent managing server, which said service providing company has, through a communication line, and also can receive ~~the~~ data relating to a rent inclusive of ~~an~~ a consumed amount of electric power thereof from said rent managing server so that said service providing company receives from said use contractor payment of said rent inclusive of said consumed amount of electric power thereof and pays an electric power company an amount corresponding to the consumed amount of electric power of the rented information electric appliance.

2. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system in which a user who has made a contract with a service providing company leases a plurality of information electric appliances rented out from said service providing company,

wherein at least one of said plurality of information electric appliances can send data exhibiting ~~the~~ a work situation of said plurality of information electric appliances to a rent managing server, which said service providing company has, through the Internet, and also can receive rents, inclusive of ~~an~~ a consumed amount of electric power ~~thereof~~, of said plurality of information electric appliances from said

rent managing server so that said service providing company receives from said use contractor payment of said rents inclusive of said consumed amount of electric power and pays an electric power company an amount corresponding to the consumed amount of electric power of the rented plurality of information electric appliances.

3. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 2, wherein said plurality of information electric appliances have at least one first information electric appliance which is connected to the Internet, and a second information electric appliance which is connected to said first information electric appliance through a communication line.

4. (currently amended) An electric information appliance renting system in which a use contractor who has made a contract with a service providing company leases an information electric appliance rented out from said service providing company, wherein said service providing company has a rent managing server for collecting ~~the~~ data relating to ~~the~~ a work situation of said information electric appliance rented out to a use contractor through a communication network to operate arithmetically a rent inclusive of ~~an~~ a consumed amount of electric power, which is to be paid by the use contractor, from the data relating to the work situation of said information electric appliance thus collected, and said rent managing server can output the rent to said information electric appliance through said communication network so that said service providing company receives from said use contractor payment of said rent inclusive of said consumed amount of electric power thereof

and pays an electric power company an amount corresponding to the consumed amount of electric power of the rented information electric appliance.

5. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 4, wherein said rent managing server arithmetically operates the consumed electric power rate of said information electric appliance thus rented out for ~~an~~ said electric power ~~supplying~~ company for supplying said information electric appliance thus rented out with the electric power, and can provide said electric power ~~supplying~~ company with ~~the~~ data relating to the consumed electric power rate through a communication network.

Claim 6 (canceled)

7. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 4, wherein the information electric appliances thus rented out has a first information electric appliance which is connected to said rent managing server of said service providing company through a communication network and a second information electric appliance which is connected to said first information electric appliance through a communication line.

8. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 7, wherein said first information electric appliance can display thereon the data relating to the work situation and the consumed electric power rates of said first and second information electric appliances.

9. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 7, wherein said first information electric appliance can carry out ~~the maintenance diagnosis or the replacement diagnosis~~ of said second information electric appliance which is connected to said first information electric appliance through said communication line.

10. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system for renting information electric appliances, comprising: at least one information electric appliance which is rented out, inclusively of ~~the~~ an electric power rate, from a service providing company to a use contractor; and a rent managing server for managing the rented information electric appliance(s) which said service providing company has, wherein said information electric appliance has communication means for sending work result data to said rent managing server, and said rent managing server has communication means for receiving the work result data sent from said information electric appliance so that said service providing company receives from said use contractor payment of said rent inclusive of said consumed amount of electric power thereof and pays an electric power company an amount corresponding to the consumed amount of electric power of the rented information electric appliance.

11. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 10, wherein said rent managing server includes means for calculating a charge which is to be charged for a use contractor leasing said information electric appliance in accordance with the work result data and for

calculating the electric power rate which is to be paid to ~~an~~said electric power supplying company in accordance with the work result data.

12. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 10, wherein said rent managing server records and manages thereat the work result data.

13. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 10, further comprising an information terminal through which the rent is carried out inclusively of the electric power rate, and said information electric appliance, said information terminal and said rent managing server have communication means for communicating with said information terminal, communication means for communicating with said information electric appliance and said rent managing server, and communication means for communicating with said information terminal, respectively, and said information terminal has means for recording the work result data, means for operating arithmetically ~~an~~the amount of consumed electric power from the work result data, and means for sending the data relating to ~~an~~the amount of consumed electric power thus arithmetically operated to said rent managing server.

14. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 11, wherein said information electric appliance has operation controlling means for controlling the operation thereof, and said rent managing server has means for obtaining ~~an~~the amount of consumed electric power of said electric appliance on the basis of ~~the~~ control data provided by said operation

controlling means and for obtaining ~~the~~a use rate inclusive of an electric power rate which is to be charged for a use contractor and the electric power rate which is to be paid to said electric power ~~supplying~~ company.

15. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 10, further comprising electric power measuring means for measuring the electric power of said information electric appliance, wherein said rent managing server has means for operating arithmetically ~~the~~a use charge inclusive of an electric power rate which is to be charged for a use contractor and the electric power rate which is to be paid to said electric power company on the basis of an amount of electric power measured by said electric power measuring means.

16. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 10, wherein said rent managing server can send ~~the~~ data relating to ~~the~~a situation of ~~the~~ half-way progress of use of the electric power to said information electric appliance.

17. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 13, wherein said rent managing server can send ~~the~~ data relating to ~~the~~a situation of ~~the~~ half-way progress of use of the electric power to said information electric appliance.

18. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 11, wherein said rent managing server carries out ~~the~~an arithmetic operation in such a way that when the operation result data of said

information electric appliance is equal to or smaller than a predetermined amount, the consumed electric power rate is decided as ~~the~~a fixed amount, while when the operation result data of the electric appliance exceeds the predetermined amount, the consumed electric power rate is increased in accordance with the work result data.

19. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 10, wherein said rent managing server includes judgement means for on ~~the~~a basis of ~~the~~ work result data sent from said information electric appliance, carrying out ~~the~~a judgement of abnormality of said information electric appliance and for judging on ~~the~~a basis of ~~the~~a judgement result whether or not the maintenance needs to be carried out.

20. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 10, wherein said rent managing server includes means for generating a running pattern on ~~the~~a basis of ~~the~~ work result data sent from said information electric appliance to compare ~~the~~a total cost up to ~~the~~a scrapping processing of said information electric appliance with ~~the~~a total cost up to ~~the~~a scrapping processing of an information electric appliance which is replaceable with said information electric appliance to execute the replacement judgement for said information electric appliance.